What is claimed is:

1. A printing system comprising:

a client having character image information generation means for generating character image information representing desired characters and/or a desired simple image by receiving an input of the character and/or the simple image; and

a laboratory server having information printing means for printing the character and/or the simple image at a predetermined position on a print based on the character image information provided from the client, at the time of printing image data.

2. A printing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the character image information generation means describes the character image information in order information representing the content of a printing order of the image data, and

the information printing means prints the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the order information.

3. A printing system as defined in Claim 2, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies generation of a plurality of prints of the same image data, the character image information generation means enables setting the character image information for each of the prints, and

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the information printing means prints the character and/or the simple image represented by the character image information set for each of the prints on the predetermined position of each of the prints.

5   4. A printing system as defined in Claim 2, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies printing of a plurality of sets of the image data, the character image information generating means enables setting one item of the character image information for all 10 prints and the information printing means prints the character and/or the simple image represented by the character image information at the predetermined position of each of the prints.

5. A printing system as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the client and the laboratory server comprise storage means for storing a table relating a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image to code information representing a kind of the character and/or the simple image.

20   6. A printing system as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the client and the laboratory server are connected to each other via a network.

7. A print order method comprising the steps of:

generating character image information representing 25 desired characters and/or a desired simple image by receiving an input of the character and/or the simple image;

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and

     printing the character and/or the simple image at a predetermined position of a print based on the character image information when image data are printed.

5   8.   A print order method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the character image information is described in order information representing the content of a printing order of the image data.

     9.   A print order method as defined in Claim 6, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies generation of a plurality of prints of the same image data, the character image information is set for each of the prints.

     10.   A print order method as defined in Claim 8, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies printing of a plurality of sets of the image data, one item of the character image information is set for all the prints.

     11.   A print order method as defined in ~~any one of~~ Claims 7 ~~to 10~~, wherein the desired character and/or the desired simple image are input as code information representing a kind of a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image.

     12.   A print order apparatus used in the print order method defined in ~~any one of~~ Claims 7 ~~to 10~~, the print order apparatus comprising:

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character image information generation means for generating the character image information representing the desired character and/or the desired simple image by receiving the input of the character and/or the simple image.

13. A printing apparatus used in the print order method defined in ~~any one of~~ Claims 7 ~~to 10~~, the printing apparatus comprising:

information printing means for printing the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the character image information when the image data are printed.

14. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program used in the print order method defined in Claim 7, the program comprising the procedure of:

generating the character image information representing the desired character and/or the desired simple image by receiving the input of the character and/or the simple image.

15. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program used in the print order method defined in Claim 7, the program comprising the procedure of:

printing the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the character image information when the image data are printed.

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